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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 7, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/LEE

SUBJECT: Herbicide Orange Storage Site Reclamation

During the period November-December 1979, briefings indicating that erosion was moving contaminated soil from the Gulfport site to areas off-base were presented to SAF/MI and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (MRA&L). The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force directed that immediate measures be taken to preclude further erosion and stressed the requirement for early development of a protocol for research to determine methods for returning the storage area to full and beneficial use. In addition to the Gulfport site, contaminated sites of Eglin AFB and Johnston Island were to be addressed.

On June 30, 1980, following staff coordination, AF/SG forwarded the research protocol developed by Air Force Systems Command. The protocol envisions a four-year program with an estimated financial requirement of \$985,000. These funds are not presently programmed in the USAF R&D budget. The protocol outlines a broad-based program (six tasks) of research and recommends that the Environics Branch, Engineering and Services Laboratory, HQ AFESC, be designated the responsible lead laboratory for this effort.

While the entire series of tasks outlined have not been fully evaluated by SAF/MI and SAF/MIQ, the Air Force has made public commitments to determine the efficiency of interim control measures taken at Gulfport and to continue sampling at both the Gulfport and Johnston Island sites. It is therefore prudent, considering climatic/seasonal variations, that additional sampling be conducted expeditiously (appropriate samples identified in Tasks 3 and 4, attached protocol).

I concur with the recommendation that AFESC be designated the lead laboratory and request they arrange for sample collection (and preservation for subsequent analysis) at both the Gulfport and Johnston Island sites before October 1, 1980. I am aware that AFESC has not had an opportunity to budget for this FY 80 effort. I am therefore, by copy of this letter,

requesting that the USAF OEHL transfer \$6,000 of FY 80 funds identified for Herbicide Orange efforts to AFESC to cover FY 80 sample collection and preservation expenses. In like manner, funds currently in the USAF OEHL FY 81 budget for Herbicide Orange work in the amount of \$36,000 will also be transferred to AFESC as initial funding for analysis of previously collected and preserved samples and subsequent year sampling/analysis contracts.

Our evaluation of the remaining tasks outlined in the proposed protocol is continuing. I will keep you advised of our decisions regarding these site restoration efforts.



CARLOS STERN, Ph.D.
Deputy for
Environment & Safety

Attachment

cc: SAF/MII/MID
AF/RD
AF/SGES
AFCS/SGB
AMD/SG
USAF OEHL/CC